

~~Mr. [unclear]~~

My dear Mr. [unclear]

~~I have only this day received the newspaper reports of Mr. Hermode's meeting and had scarcely time to reply to the remarks made on my address - But still I request you will have the kindness to cause the annexed to be read at the meeting of to day, or to publish it in any manner you may think fit~~

Hewitree 12 Dec 1837

To the Electors of Campbell Town District

I feel much gratified that my late address to you has brought to Spite, Conviction and unwilling Confession on the part of Mr Hermode, the charge I made of his using unchristian expressions towards the Governor - Expressions which he is pleased to term Metaphors, but which if addressed in England to the Queen instead of her representative the Governor, would perhaps without Metaphor, have given Mr Hermode a much better plea for desiring transportation than any he has yet put forth -

Thus the principal charge being settled - I seriously beg you to consider, whether your duty to the Colony will allow you at this critical period to elect a man (who I am willing to think would not have acted on his threat) so very full of enmity to the Governor - and so little capable of controlling his passions, in preference to one of Steady and active mind and master of his tempers -

My other charges, viz of defaming the colony and the prisoners which of course includes those who have been prisoners altho now free, cannot be more fully proved than by the statements in the papers of what passed at those meetings in which he joined hand in hand, with the open destroyers and secret assassins of our character and station, in the society of the world, by inferring that we were infected with every kind of contamination and deprived from the presence of convicts -

Is not this another reason for not electing Mr Hermode but a man who would endeavor to set us right with them, and if possible to bring us into the level of good society

The charge made against me by Mr Dowling tho accompanied by such abominable language seems to be

that altho I professed good opinions regarding convicts
and emancipists - I did not speak of them in the appeal
by Mr. Hermode. &c. and others - in 1839 -

At that time we fully proved that we were not contaminated
with vice in any way - therefore could not be contaminated
by convicts - so that no mention of them was made, nor could
be with propriety, ^{as} I should think every one would
feel - I did not as Mr. Dowling openly draw up the
resolutions - Capt. Great composed them and they were
considered by all as most manly and well founded
and happy would it have been for the country if
traitors to the colony had not effected a change in
opinions -

My statements in favor of convicts ~~are~~ often repeated
in the Chronicle are of the following nature

" Nov. 1849 - I feel that I am writing in a just cause
" and therefore however weak my capacity may be, I will
" never flinch from defending the character of the colony
" and of the unfortunate and almost equally injured
" prisoners - "

" Great numbers of those sent here in punishment
of faults have become good and valuable
members of society; and by attention to the education
of their children's conduct, have rendered very many
of them worthy of ranking with the first and best
of the colonists -

Nor Mr. Hermode ever stated or come forward with
any statement of this nature - and has any one
reason to say I have not supported emancipists
in a proper manner

Wood

Cap Wood

12 Oct. 1857